



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110 002

Report of the Inspection Committee on its visit to the Martin Luther Christian University, KJPA Conference Centre / Central Ward, Shillong – 793 001, Meghalaya (a Private University) during April 15-16, 2008.

I. INTRODUCTION

Martin Luther Christian University, KJPA Conference Centre / Central Ward, Shillong – 793 001, Meghalaya which has been established as a **Private University** by Act No.11, 2005 of Meghalaya Legislature notified on 13th July, 2005 and published vide Gazette Notification No. LL.(B)28/2005/31, dated 11th July, 2005 In pursuance of the Act, the Government of Meghalaya, Department of Education accorded sanction for establishment of **Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU)** on 22nd February, 2006.

In response to proposal received from **Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU)** for recognition by **University Grants Commission (UGC)**, the Chairman, UGC constituted an Expert Committee (as given under III) to assess the academic and physical infrastructure of the University in terms of the UGC (Establishment and Maintenance of Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 (vide D.O. No. F.9-1/2007 (CPP-I) dated 10.03.2008 to visit the University for inspection and submit a Report to the UGC.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE INSTITUTION

The **Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU)** is jointly sponsored by the **Khasi-Jaintia Presbyterian Assembly (KJPA)** and **The National Lutheral Health and Medical Board (NLHMB) of the Union Evangelical Lutheral Church in India (UELCI)** to offer degree and other courses that will lead to

employment in the region, promote research that is aligned with the development needs of the State and also participate in community development projects.

The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya shall be the Visitor of the University and other officers of the University shall be the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, the Finance Officer and such other officers as may be declared by the Statutes to be officers of the University. The Sponsor shall appoint a suitable person as the Chancellor of the University with the prior approval of the Visitor. The authorities of the University shall be the Board of Governors, the Board of Management, The Academic Council, the Finance Committee and such other authorities as may be declared by the statutes to be the authorities of the University.

The MLCU is in the process of constructing the first floor where at present its main office is located. This office is in a building which, as verbally communicated to the Committee, has been leased out to MLCU by the owner who also happens to be one of the sponsors of the University. MLCU is well networked with the Society in the State, which is evident in the confidence of the people who have donated the land and the State Government as students are enjoying State Scholarship. Another worth while development that has been noted by the Committee is that the MLCU has taken up some research and extension projects of relevance and interest to society, such as, Local Health Traditions (AYUSH, Union Ministry of Health for which they have been sanctioned a grant of Rs. 30.00 lakhs), HIV/AIDS screening sanctioned by NACO for Rs. 44 lakhs and HIV/AIDS State Training Centres (the University has been short listed by NACO).

Objects of the University:

As per the MLCU Act, the following are the objects of the University:

- a) To establish academic departments, centers, faculties and institutions of excellence to train professionals of high competence and commitment;
- b) To affiliate colleges and to set up university centers for interactive, distance, online and other modes of learning in a network system of leading centers, using modern information and communication technologies.

- c) To collaborate with educational and healthcare institutions, government and voluntary organizations to offer various academic programmes;
- d) To provide education and healthcare of underdeveloped regions, especially tribal areas and their people;
- e) To advocate the need and contribution of higher education as a valuable means to individual and societal development.
- f) To assist students and graduates in planning, preparing and being placed in their careers;
- g) To develop innovative concepts and programmes in higher education;
- h) To develop educational programmes that are flexible and responsive to changes in society;
- i) To contribute to the development of knowledge – based society.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE EXPERT COMMITTEE

- **Prof. B.S. Sonde,** Chairman
 (Formerly, Vice Chancellor,
 Goa University, Goa)
 274, Shree Ananth Nagar
 Electronic City, P.O. Hosur Road,
 Bangalore.
- **Prof. B.P. Singh,** Member
 (Formerly, Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Business,
 Delhi School of Economics,
 University of Delhi)
 22 Vaishali, Pitampura
 Delhi – 110 088
- **Dr. N.S. Hadke,** Member
 Department of Surgery
 Maulana Azad Medical College
 New Delhi 110 002
- **Prof. P. G. Jogdand,** Member
 Department of Sociology,
 University of Mumbai,
 Kalina Campus
 Mumbai – 400 098.

- **Prof. V.K. Kapoor** Member
 (Formerly Dean & Chairman,
 University Institute of Pharmaceutical Science
 Punjab University)
 1473, Pushpak Complex, 49-B,
 Chandigarh – 160 014.

- **Prof. (Mrs.) Anupama V. Gajbhiya #** Member
 Head
 Department of Computer Science
 R.T.M. Nagpur University,
 Nagpur – 440 001

Prof. (Mrs.) Anupama V. Gajbhiya could not attend the Inspection visit.

Dr. K.P. Singh, Joint Secretary, UGC coordinated the Visit of the Expert Committee, which visited the MLCU, Shillong on April 15-16, 2008.

On the first day (15/04/2008), the Committee visited the main campus of MLCU in the forenoon. On arrival at the campus, the Committee was received by Dr. Glenn C. Kharkongor, Vice-Chancellor and Rev. Edwin H. Kharkongor, Registrar. The Vice-Chancellor made a detailed presentation before the Committee covering all the major aspects of the development of MLCU as included in the proposal submitted to UGC earlier, highlighting the philosophy and rationale of the University in choosing the existing subjects/courses being offered and the campuses both within and outside Shillong being run. This was followed by an interactive session, wherein the Chairman and members of the Committee sought and obtained clarifications on a number of points in the proposal of MLCU and the Vice Chancellor's presentation.

In the afternoon session, the Committee visited the Departments of MLCU, viz. those conducting **Allied Health Sciences, BBA and BCA** as well as **Master in Social Work and M.Sc. in Psychology**, located at three different locations in the city of Shillong. After visiting their laboratories, classrooms, computer & internet, and library facilities and having brief interaction with their faculty/students. The Committee later had a meeting with all the faculty members of the University, followed by another meeting with a representative group of students at the MLCU main campus.

Later in the day, the Committee had an opportunity of interaction with senior members of Board of Governors and the Academic Council at a Dinner hosted by the Vice Chancellor.

On the second day (16/4/2008), the Committee went to see the site of the proposed campus of the University at Mawflang, about 24 kilometers from Shillong. There the Committee also had a brief interaction with the office bearers of the Darbar who executed the Gift Deed in favour of K.J.P.A., Shillong. Then the Committee took up the Report in preliminary form, followed by a meeting with the Hon'ble Minister of Higher & Technical Education, Government of Meghalaya, Shri Manas Choudhary and a concluding meeting with the Vice Chancellor, after which, the Committee finalized its Report for submission to the UGC.

After this introductory background, the Report of the UGC inspection Committee is divided into two parts; i) dealing with inspection findings of the various teaching departments, Libraries, Computer Centres and other facilities; ii) dealing with specific observations, comments and suggestion/recommendations.

Part-I : Inspection Report

S.NO.		
1.	Name of the university with Notification No. & date of the State Govt.	Martin Luther Christian University. No. EDN.52/2005/Pt/6-A dated February 22, 2006. (Annexure-I).
2.	Registered Office of the University	KJPA Conference Centre, Central Ward, Shillong 793001 Meghalaya.
3.	Name & Headquarters of the Society / Promoting Agency	(i). Khasi-Jaintia Presbyterian Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of India (PCI) Add: Mission Compound, Shillong East Khasi Hills, District- Meghalaya. (ii) National Lutheran Health and Medical Board (NLHMB) of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of India (UELCI). Add: 94 Purasawalkam High Road, Kelly, Chennai – 600 010.

4.	Whether the Sponsoring Society/ Agency is involved in promoting / running any other University / Institution? If yes, give details:	Yes, (i). KJPA of PCI – 1200 Schools, 13 Colleges, 6 Hospitals & 2 Schools of Nursing. (ii). NLHMB of UELCI – 800 Schools, 13 Colleges, 6 Hospitals & 3 Schools of Nursing.
5.	Territorial Jurisdiction	State of Meghalaya
6.	Date of Visit	April 15 & 16, 2008
7.	Programmes permitted to be offered by Gazette Notification of State Govt. and its reference.	Not mentioned
8.	Whether all documents requested by the inspection Team were provided.	Yes, by and large.
9.	If no, what are the deficit documents (List to be enclosed)	N.A.
10.	Whether administrative authorities like Governing Council, Academic Council & BOS formed and minutes of their meeting produced?	General Body, Academic Council formed and some meetings held; Boards of Studies are yet to be formed.
11.	Source of finance and quantum of funds available – From fees: From State Govt. From UGC From other sources (From sponsors) :	Rs 29.12 lakhs in 2006-07 NA NA Rs. 37.09 lakhs in 2006-07;
12.	Corpus Fund/Endowment Fund of the Society/trust shown to the Inspection Team.	<i>Yes.</i> <i>(Annexure- II)</i>
13.	Statement of income & expenditure for the last 3 years (year-wise).	<i>(Annexure - III)</i>
14.	(i) Land documents, if shown, area of land registered in the name of the university and its location in the State. (ii) Deposits made in the name of Society/University, separately or jointly with state authorities.	Hima Mawphlang Lyngdohship represented by the Lyngdoh Shri N. Kingkerious Lyngdoh son of Shri Nodro Khonghat and the Myntri of Hima Mawphlang, Shri Lamphrang Blah, Shri S. Hodlingshon Kharshiing and Shri Lumbok Kharhunai of Mawphlang village, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya has donated 25 acres of land called Lumthangkanam-Wahrina Mawphlang situated at Mawphlang village, Mawphlang Lyndhogship, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya

		<p>to the Khasi Jaintia-Presbyterian Assembly represented by the Moderator, Rev.S.D. Marwein, Moderator, K.J.P. Assembly, Rev. D.E. Syiem, Chairman, Trust Committee, K.J.P. Assembly and Rev. L.Nongsiej, Administrative Secretary, KJP Assembly Office, Mission Compound, Shillong East Khasi Hills District Meghalaya for establishment of Martin Luther Christian University by way of a Gift Deed executed on 7th April, 2007 on a Non-Judicial Stamp Paper of Rs. Thirty. The Gift Deed has not been registered.</p> <p>(Annexure IV)</p> <p>(ii) None</p>
15.	<p>Administrative Office details</p> <p>(i) Total plinth area,</p> <p>(ii) Built up area,</p> <p>(iii) Separate offices for Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Financial Officer, Controller of Examination, Administrative Office, Committee Room, students waiting room etc.</p>	<p>Administrative office and all the three campuses of the University located in Shillong are in rented building.</p>
16.	<p>Building details etc.</p>	
	<p>i) Permanent</p>	<p>Permanent buildings are yet to come up at Mawphlang, 25 acres.</p>
	<p>ii) Temporary/Leased property</p>	<p>Administrative office and all the three campuses of the University located in Shillong are in rented building.</p>
17.	<p>Give details of Library</p> <p>i) Covered area</p> <p>ii) Number of books</p> <p>iii) Number of journals</p> <p>(a) National</p> <p>(b) International</p>	<p>(i) There is no Library Building at yet. As the classes are being held at three different places in rented buildings, some books are being maintained in all these buildings as per requirements of the courses as per details given below:</p> <p>(ii) BBA- 30, BCA – 25, AHS -154 approx., MSW/MSc – 66.</p> <p>(iii) Journals:;</p> <p>(a) National – 4</p> <p>(b) International - None.</p>

18.	Number of Classrooms, give details.	BBA – 2 BCA – 2 AHS – 3 BSW/MSW – 5 MScCP – 1 MAMus - 4 (All classrooms mentioned above are in rented premises).
19.	Number of Laboratories, give details.	Microbiology Lab. – 1 MLT Lab. – 1 BCA Lab. – 1 (All laboratories mentioned above are in rented premises).
20.	Whether students already admitted? If yes, details of courses and the number of students admitted in each course during the last three years.	Yes, details enclosed as Annexure – V.
21.	Whether any Off-Campus or Study/offshore Centre or Admission Centre/established outside the State/abroad.	The University has started three Off-Campuses as per the details given below: 1) West Garo Hills District at Tura located at Baptist Higher Secondary School 2) Jaintia Hills District at Jowai located at Presbyterian Hospital (Rented Building) 3) Jaintia Hills District at Rymbai located at Presbyterian Hospital (Rented Building)
22.	Whether functioning of the University has been Computerized? If yes, to what extent?	Yes, partly computerized. a). Administration b). Academic. c). Evaluation. d). Financial. e). Management Information System installed by NESSAC (North East Software Solutions and Consultancy), Laitumkhrach, Shillong.
23.	a) Research and Extension Facility b) List of Research Publications for the last 3 years. c) List of ongoing research projects with their source of funding.	a). Yet to be taken up. b). None c) The University has been awarded three development projects as given below: ➤ Local health traditions (Rs. 30 lakhs from AYUSH, Union Ministry of Health) ➤ HIV/AIDS screening (Rs. 44 lakhs from NACO) ➤ HIV/AIDS state training centers (short listed by NACO).

24.	Future plans for starting new courses	The University proposes to start following courses: (i). BSc in Physician Assistant. (ii). PG Diploma in Microbiology. (iii). Centre for Development of Traditional Medicine (iv). PG Diploma in Peace Studies
25.	Whether courses in emerging areas introduced/proposed to be introduced.	NO.
26.	Whether approval of relevant statutory bodies obtained for starting professional/courses/increased intake.	NA
27.	Admission procedure.	(Annexure - VI).
28.	Fee structure for the different courses run by the University.	(Annexure - VII).
29.	Examination system.	Details enclosed. (Annexure - VIII)
30.	Number of sanctioned posts Professors - Readers – Lecturers.	Details enclosed. (Annexure - IX)
31.	Names, designations, qualifications and Publications of the existing teaching staff (department-wise).	Details enclosed. (Annexure - IX) Publications: Nil
32.	Whether the faculty members organized or Attended International/National Conferences Workshops, if so, give details.	Yes, Details enclosed. (Annexure - X)
33.	Linkages with other Institutions (National & International, give details).	(i). Christian Institute of Management, Chennai. (ii). TRADA National Institute of Social Sciences, Kottayam, Kerela. (iii). California Lutheran University, USA.
34.	Whether Non-teaching staff appointed, if yes, give details	Yes, details enclosed. (Annexure - XI)
35.	Whether Institute is following UGC Pay scales for teaching staff.	Basic salary - Yes. Allowances – partly.

36.	Facilities for faculty and staff	a). Faculty room/office. b). Computer & Internet. c). Sponsorship for workshops. d). Provident Fund. (All in a limited way)
37.	Facilities for students.	a). Career Counseling. b). Computer & Internet. c). Welfare Committee. d). University Week. e). Placement Cell (All in a limited way)
38.	Sports and Games facilities with details.	a). Basketball Court and football fields of KJPA, Shillong are being used. b). Volleyball court at MLCU Campus (MSW Dept.). (All in a limited way)
39.	Hostel facilities available, if any.	None
40.	Other facilities available at the Institution(s), give details.	None

PART-II: OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

Based on the detailed consideration of the MLCU proposal submitted earlier and updated version submitted to the Inspection Committee, discussions held by the Committee at the MLCU, and its visits to different Departments of the University as also its internal discussions, the Committee makes the following observations:

1. General Observations:

- a) MLCU has been jointly sponsored by the **National Lutheran Health and Medical Board (NLHMB)** of the **Union of Evangelical Lutheran Church in India (UELCI)** and the **Social & Human Resources Development (SHRD), Ministry of the Khasi Jaintia Presbyterian Assembly (KJPA)** by entering into an MOU for this purpose (dated 09/04/2005) enclosed as Annexure – XII. This enabled to establish MLCU by an Act of **Meghalaya State Legislature** (Act No. 11 of 2005) as a **private university**.

- b) The University seems to have a focused vision for providing higher education, research and extension service opportunities in the State of Meghalaya including the relatively backward regions of the State. Its efforts have met with some success.
- c) The University has been making efforts to establish its academic and infrastructural facilities on the right lines to meet the growing needs and aspirations of the youth in Meghalaya. The University has already launched a few programmes, employed faculty/ staff and admitted students from the academic year 2006-07.
- d) At present, the main campus and the Departments are located in rented/leased premises at four different locations in the city of Shillong. The premises are rather small and do not seem to be adequate to meet the academic and other needs of Faculty/Students.
- e) Besides, they are separated by considerable distances between them, making it somewhat difficult to effectively oversee the programmes/activities and to ensure efficient utilisation of the resources.
- f) The Faculty members are young (average age: about 25 years), reasonably qualified and enthusiastic. While this is an advantage to the University, the absence of senior faculty members like Professors and Readers and the virtual absence of Ph.D. Degree holders (except for the Vice Chancellor, who teaches a few courses and guides research in his specialization area) are definite constrains in the qualitative strengthening of the academic and professional programmes.
- g) MLCU has taken a good initiative to get the faculty members enrolled for Ph.D degree. It was good to see that 9 faculty members have now registered for Ph.D degree (Annexure –XIII) with institutions, such as, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL), Hyderabad, besides its own University i.e. MLCU under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor.

- h) The University has also taken up few sponsored projects in distinctive areas (Annexure – XIV).
- i) While students for the various programmes are mostly from Meghalaya, the Committee was pleased to learn that students from neighboring North Eastern States are also attracted to MLCU. Besides, some of the students receive Government of India Scholarships for SCs and STs. to pursue their higher education at MLCU.

Specific Observations:

- a) Without consolidating its resources to strengthen its main campus, the MLCU has gone ahead to set up 3 Off-Campus Centres at different locations in the State, which is in clear violation of UGC Regulations (Section-3.3) under which the present inspection has been conducted.
- b) In all, there are 51 Lecturers appointed by the MLCU; 19 are at the three campuses outside Shillong.
- c) While the Board of Governors, Academic Council and Finance Committee of the University have held some of their meetings, the Board of Management (although constituted some time back) has not met so far. Besides, Boards of Studies for different disciplines have not been constituted so far, although many academic programmes have been already launched.
- d) At present, the academic facilities including library, computer center, internet access, laboratories and class rooms are grossly inadequate, even for the ongoing programmes. The University seems to be over ambitious in planning to launch a few more programmes in the near future. Such a step, without correcting/improving the existing infrastructure, both physical and human would lead to reduction in the quality.

- e) The Library facilities in terms of space, books (Titles and volumes), Journals, the services of qualified Librarian are grossly inadequate and disappointing (less than 350 books).
- f) Similarly, the Computer Centre is virtually non-existent in terms of either a centralized form or de-centralized one. So far as broad-band Internet access is concerned, the facility seems to be poor.
- g) Since the classes are held in rented/leased premises, most of them are in a small rooms where hardly 15 to 20 students can sit. There is total absence of technology savvy modern educational gadgets to be used as teaching aids.
- h) The existing faculty is only at the level of Lecturer except the Vice Chancellor who is both a Professor and Vice Chancellor. Most of the persons, who have been appointed as Lecturers are quite young which is both an advantage as also a limitation, lack the requisite UGC qualifications. However, the faculty was found to be quite enthusiastic and committed.
- i) Since there is no senior position of Professor or Reader either created or filled up, there is a mis-match in terms of faculty cadre ratio as per the UGC Norms and standards in this regard.
- j) The supporting non-teaching staff, both technical and general, are conspicuous by their extremely limited presence.
- k) There is no hostel facility either for boys or girls, nor there are facilities for sports and Medicare for them. However, there is a basketball Court in one of the campuses.
- l) The key positions in University administration, such as, Finance Officers/Financial Adviser, Controller of Examinations, Deans of Faculties, Dean of Students Welfare, Librarian Deputy/Assistant Registrar(s), are conspicuous by their absence.

- m) Similarly, implementation of UGC norms and standards in respect of faculty cadre ratio (Professor : Reader : Lecturer : Research Associates) seems to have been over looked, resulting into total absence of senior positions of Professors and Readers not being created and filled up; Some of the Lecturers appointed to the post do not seem to fulfill the minimum qualifications as laid down by the UGC.
- n) The Committee was shown the site of the proposed campus at Mawphlang which according to the donor measures around 25 acres, which is situated on a hillock separated by a rivulet from two sides. There is no road access to the proposed site of the campus, which in itself is a herculean task requiring completion before the construction can start at the hillock.
- o) The land for the proposed campus at Mawphlang has been donated by the Tribal Darbar which claims to be the owner of the hillock gifted to the sponsor of the MLCU. This gift of land is not in the name of the MLCU.
- p) If the University is able to mobilize substantial amount of money and start the work immediately, it may take atleast 5 years to develop the University campus at the proposed site located at Mawphlang.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the detailed inspection of the University and discussions held with all its stakeholders, the Committee makes the following recommendations for the consideration of the UGC.

- 1) The MLCU should concentrate its energies, time and resources first in improving the Shillong Campus and then plan to move out of Shillong to start Off-campus Centers in the State only after obtaining the approval of the UGC.
- 2) MLCU may be asked to close down its three Off-campus Centers with immediate effect.
- 3) MLCU is not yet ready to receive recognition from the UGC, as there are many deficiencies observed in the development of the University in respect of the criteria outlined in the UGC (Establishment of and

Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations 2003. The deficiencies pointed out under the heading Specific Observations ranging from a) to p) need to be attended to in terms of rectification, improvement, and enforcement.

- 4) The Committee recommends that MLCU may be permitted to continue its on going courses and activities only at its Shillong Campuses for the time being.

However, the University may be asked not to launch any new courses and programmes until the deficiencies pointed out above are corrected.

- 5) Until such time the deficiencies pointed out in 1) - 4) above are complied with and later verified by the Inspection Committee of UGC in a period of 1-2 years, the MLCU may not be considered for recognition by UGC.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee is thankful to the Vice Chancellor and the Registrar of MLCU for their excellent cooperation in conducting the inspection of the University. The Committee also expresses its appreciation to all the Stakeholders for their useful interaction. The arrangements made for the visit by the University are also gratefully acknowledged. The Committee also acknowledges the contribution of Shri Rajesh Kumar from UGC for typing out the Report.

(Professor B.P. Singh)
Member

(Dr. N.S. Hadke)
Member

(Professor V.K. Kapoor)
Member

(Professor P.G. Jogdand)
Member

(Professor B.S. Sonde)
Chairman

Place: Shillong
Dated: April 16, 2008.